



# Manten Kontaktu

No 37 May 2016

[www.geelong-viqueque.com.au](http://www.geelong-viqueque.com.au)

## A Rewarding Experience

The Annual Timor Leste Student Day at St Josephs' College was a great success. Students from 11 primary and secondary schools attended with three for the first time St Mary's, St Margaret's and St Roberts. The program for the day included a wide variety of **Workshops**: Cooking, Tetum Language, Weaving, Games and Play, Crocodile Story, Collage Making and



[Type text]



**Presentations:** *Life in Timor Leste*, Senior Clonard College and Sacred Heart College Students, *Health in Timor Leste*, Heather Wallace, *With One Seed*, Andrew Maher and *Peace Keeping*, Tony Tomlison. The three main presenters have had extended time in Timor Leste and brought real authenticity to their presentations.



We were delighted to have present Afonso Soares and Simao (Simmy) Do Rosario, members of the Timor Leste Ministry of Education and studying for their Masters Degree at Deakin university. They shared a little of their story growing up in Timor, especially the challenges during the final days of Indonesian occupancy. Again the key driver of the program was Patrice Hall (above left) who the following day left for Timor Leste. Patrice is a mid-wife at Geelong hospital and will spend about three weeks on her 17<sup>th</sup> visit to Timor working in Dr Dan's Clinic. She hopes to visit Viqueque.

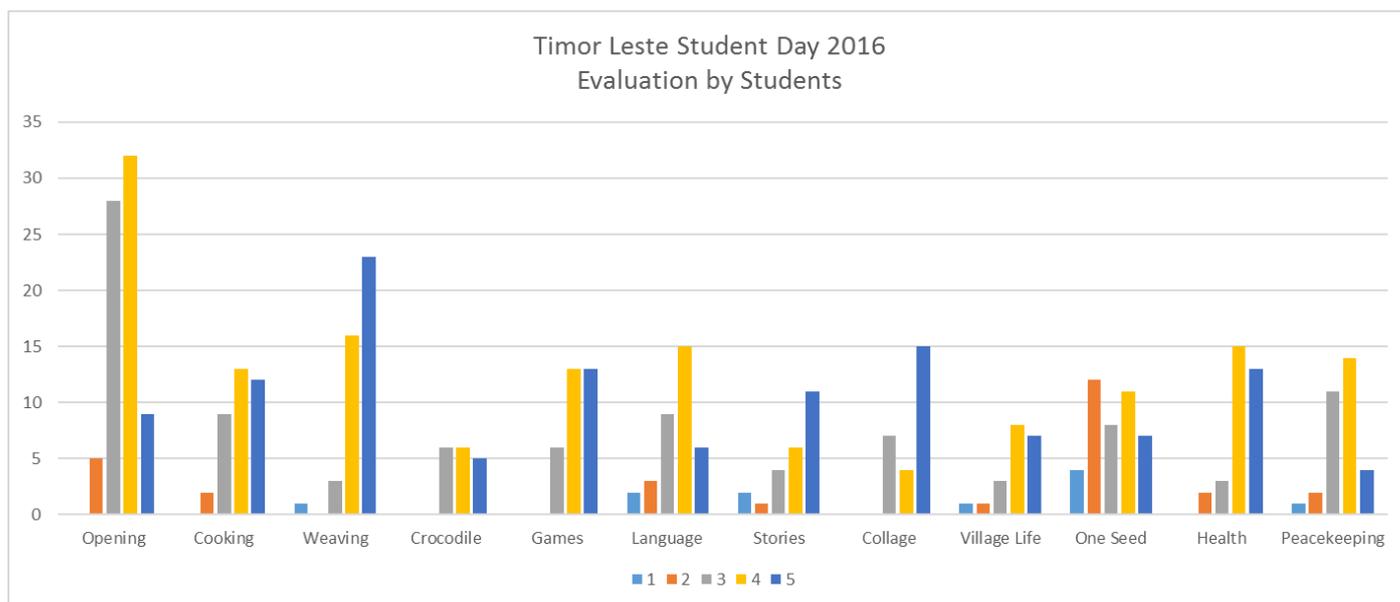
The following reflections are from Christian College students who attended Heather's inspiring talk.

- *Hearing her story was fascinating and to hear how two countries can be so different was an eye opener*
- *Inspiring to hear how much of a difference she is making and will make in the future*
- *Gave us the contrast, we had no idea how different East Timor really is to Australia*
- *Challenging to see how limited their medical facilities are compared to ours*
- *If we went to the hospital we pay money but they pay with a chicken!*
- *Fascinating to know how hard child birth is to them.*
- *Inequality was surprising – how the males and females have a different say – the males decide how many children a family will have*
- *Confronting to learn how many mothers die from child birth*
- *Confronting to learn that diarrhea can kill children there*
- *Lack of sanitation in East Timor is a real issue – we learnt that 4 out of 10 homes lack facilities to have good sanitation*

[Type text]

*I enjoyed East Timor day because it gave me a wider knowledge of the Timorese culture and what's going on in the world around me. By Tiarna Bett (Year 7)*

*East Timor day has shown me that I am very fortunate to have the simple things in life such as running water and technology. I also learnt that you can have so much fun without technology. So I did an activity called Games and Play. Where I did a lot of weird games i had never tried before and I would have never of thought of. It's so interesting how happy the kids in East Timor are when they have very little to entertain themselves they just use what they can find around the village, compared to us where all we want is more, more electronics, more things to keep us entertained and more stuff in general. But they go out and experience what's right in front of them. They don't need technology to be happy they are already so happy. I was told a quote in one of the East Timor day presentations and it said "We know we are poor but we are free" So they may be poor in money and fortune but they are rich in so many other things like their sense of community and happiness. One of the presentations I liked was the global poverty it was showed me that poverty is a really big issue, I already knew it was a big problem. Some people think that people choose to be in poverty but they don't it isn't there fault. I really enjoyed East Timor day and I learnt so much. Thanks. By Lily Griffin (Year 8)*



## Our Aspirations

The Timor Leste Student Day was just one way by which GVFS is upholding its Vision and Mission as stated in its recently release Strategic Plan 2016 -2020.

***Our Vision:*** To support the development of student education in Timor Leste and to raise awareness within the Geelong community, especially its schools of the needs of our neighbour.

***Our Mission:*** Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools in collaboration with Viqueque school authorities will facilitate connectedness between Geelong schools and their partner schools in Viqueque District with the aim of developing sustainable and self-managing programs.

Attached with this Newsletter is the full document. Please take a few moments to read. Our committee, supporters and member schools are still highly committed.

[Type text]

# Facing the Hungry Season

The following is off the CARE web site. Currently the food situation in Timor Leste is critical, and Viqueque is no exception. You might like to support the work of CARE [www.care.org.au](http://www.care.org.au) to donate.

*In Timor-Leste, vulnerable families are used to having a hungry season at the end of each year when their crops from the previous season have been eaten and their new crops are not yet ready. This year, a strong El Nino cycle has driven extended drought and failure of rains, causing the death of crops and livestock and pushing already vulnerable families into crisis. Crops and vegetable gardens are failing, and the crops that do grow are far behind schedule. In the worst-affected areas, almost two out of three households are reporting to have less than one month of food stocks remaining. The earlier we can respond, the more we can help keep families afloat and make sure children are fed.*

*CARE's teams have been able to speak to people in Timor-Leste's most remote regions and are ready to respond in three critical ways to stop more children going hungry and becoming malnourished. We plan to double communities' water capacity through tanks and water ponds, so crops and vegetable gardens can be watered. With your help, CARE will provide kitchen gardens to hungry families in Timor-Leste. Many have already lost so much. Which is why ensuring mothers like Amelia have a good foundation of food is absolutely crucial. A kitchen garden will mean that mothers have the tools and knowledge to grow a variety of vegetables all year long and can give their children a healthy and balanced diet.*

*CARE will also be addressing malnutrition with a longer-term approach by giving mothers and children education around its prevention and access to better healthcare. Our unique ability to access remote communities in Timor-Leste means CARE will reach as many families as possible with this lifesaving assistance.*

## Bring Paper Planes to Timor-Leste, even Viqueque!

[Cinema Lorosae](#) wants to bring the hit Australian film, [Paper Planes](#) to the people of [Timor-Leste](#) in 2016! Employing local voice actors, we will dub Paper Planes into [Tetum](#) (the national language of Timor-Leste) with English sub-titles so everyone can enjoy the film. Paper Planes producer, [Robert Connolly](#) has generously donated the film rights. Cinema Lorosae will screen the film for free.

We are seeking \$5,000AUD to assist with translating and dubbing the film into Tetum, then screening in Dili and across the districts. Once the film is dubbed, we'll launch with a free outdoor cinema event in Dili, the capital. We'll tour nationally, screening Paper Planes in the remote poor villages of Timor-Leste. Your donation will help make this happen from July.

<https://www.gofundme.com/PaperPlanesTimor>

[Type text]